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Twenty-eighth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Africa
Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania
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Draft report

Rapporteur: Ebrahim Kadwa (South Africa)

Addendum

Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking

1. At its third meeting, held on 18 September 2018, the Meeting considered item 3 of the agenda entitled "Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it the Report on the world situation with regard to drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAF/28/2 and E/CN.7/2018/5) and the report of the Secretariat on the current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in countering drug trafficking (UNODC/HONLAF/28/3). In addition, national reports were submitted by Mali, Nigeria, Algeria, Senegal, Sudan, Morocco, Mozambique, Ghana, Madagascar, Zambia, Benin, Kenya, Egypt (UNODC/HONLAF/28/CRP.1-13), Gambia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Mauritius (UNODC/HONLAF/28/CRP.15-17).

2. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) introduced the item and made an audiovisual presentation on drug trafficking trends in the region in the context of global drug trafficking. The presentation was based on information provided by Governments to UNODC.

3. The representatives of Zambia, Angola, Algeria, Kenya, Ghana, Egypt, South Africa, Sudan, Gambia and Morocco made statements. The observers for the United States and Interpol made statements and a presentation.

4. The importance of effective international cooperation, including at the regional and subregional levels, was emphasized in addressing the world drug problem. Some speakers noted the need to move from bilateral to multilateral cooperation efforts as most trafficking activities involved more than two countries and suggested strengthening cooperation in the region and beyond.

5. It was noted that the meetings of HONLEA, Africa, provided a forum for enhancing the frameworks for international cooperation, as well as for developing proposals and recommendations for future action. The need for continued cooperation

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between States and UNODC in addressing and countering the world drug problem was emphasized. States in the African region were called upon to organize regional coordination meetings and to establish cooperation networks. UNODC was encouraged to assess in-depth the drug situation in Africa and to strengthen and coordinate its technical assistance to countries in the region.

6. Many speakers reported on recent, unprecedented large seizures of cocaine and heroin, in line with the findings of this year's World Drug Report prepared by UNODC. Some had also made large seizures of cannabis and tramadol, as well as amphetamine type stimulants and NPS.

7. Several speakers referred to the increased threat posed by the abuse and trafficking of tramadol and noted changes to the modi operandi and routes used by traffickers. Some speakers highlighted the enhanced efforts made by their Governments to address this issue. Some speakers recommended that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs consider scheduling tramadol under the International Drug Control Conventions.

8. Several speakers highlighted the threat that cannabis, including, in some countries, cannabis of a higher potency, continued to pose in the African region and highlighted the efforts made by their Governments to address the cultivation of and trafficking in cannabis.

9. A presentation was made on the threats posed by fentanyl and its analogues. The meetings was informed that fentanyl was 100 times more potent than morphine and as such posed a high risk of overdose and other negative health effects to drug users. It was noted that contact with very small quantities could cause extreme reactions and as such first responders, such as police officers, prison guards or medical teams would be at risk as well. It was also noted that consumers were often unaware of the exact substances taken as fentanyl would usually be mixed with other substances. This method also hampered analysis and detection of fentanyl. Naloxone was referred to as the substance of choice to counter fentanyl overdose. It was mentioned that UNODC and Interpol recently issued reports on fentanyl for further information.

10. Several speakers referred to the efforts undertaken by their Governments to counter the trafficking of precursors and their diversion for the illicit manufacture of synthetic drugs. Some speakers reported good experiences using the PEN Online (pre-export notification) system developed by INCB.

11. Several speakers reported on taking part in training sessions offered by Interpol and UNODC as well as in joint operations organized by Interpol, AIRCOP, WCO, and UNODC. It was noted that 80 countries were participating in the operations worldwide, among them 17 countries from Africa.

12. Reference was also made to increases in the abuse and trafficking of "captagon" tablets, as well as the threat posed by the abuse of prescription medicines, such as cough medicines, diazepam and others. It was noted that the abuse and trafficking of khat remained a source of concern.

13. It was noted that effective measures to address drug trafficking would need to include following the financial flows, as financial interests were at the basis of all activities. Some speakers reported on measures taken to counter money-laundering in this regard and the need for cooperation with the financial sector due to the expertise required, as well as with money transfer service providers.

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